

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 13 - 27, 33-35, 41 and 42 are allowed and that claims 3 - 6 and 12 recite allowable subject matter.

Amendments and Withdrawn Claims

Claim 1 is amended to expressly recite that the supports to which the at least one rail is attached are the supports mentioned previously in the claim. Claims 36 and 37 are each amended to recite that the recited float bath is a float bath according to claim 1. Thus, claim 1 and claims 36 and 37 are related as subcombination/combination. Further, claims 36 and 37 each require all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, claims 36 and 37 should be examined with claim 1. No basis has been given for imposing a restriction between such subcombination/combination claims.

Claims 38-40 are directed to a process of using the product of claim 1. Thus, upon determination that claim 1 is allowed, applicants request the rejoinder of the process of using claims, pursuant to MPEP §821.04.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §103(a) in view of Hitchcock (US '240)

Claims 1, 8, 9, and 27-32 stand rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,564,240 (Hitchcock). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Hitchcock discloses a glass melting tank having a slot through which molten glass is discharged. In front of the slot is a sheet forming apparatus having a rectangular receptacle containing a bath of molten metal such as tin. The upper surface of the molten metal is said to act as casting bed over which the glass passes on its way to sizing and dimensioning rollers. See, e.g., page 1, line 108 - page 2, line 15. As shown in Figures 1 and 2 and discussed at page 2, lines 91-95, the sheet forming apparatus can be moved transversely away from the glass

melting tank by means of a car 31 on a track 32.

In the rejection, it is argued that wheels or rollers must be part of the system of Hitchcock in order for the float bath to move along the rails. However, wheels or rollers are not a necessity as alleged in the rejection as the float bath could be moved along the rails by sliding.

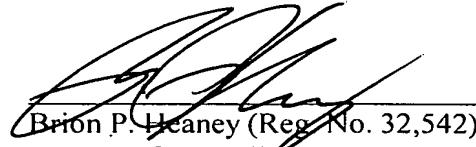
Moreover, the rails 32 disclosed by Hitchcock are not part of a moveable float bath. In Hitchcock's system the rails are completely separate from the float bath and not part thereof. Additionally, even if the float bath of Hitchcock has wheels, as asserted in the rejection, **such wheels would not and could not be attached to rails 32**. If the wheels were attached to rails 32, then they could not move along the rails and thus the float bath would be immovable. Attaching the asserted wheels to the rails 32 would destroy the function of the wheels, would destroy the function of the rails, and would eliminate the intended function of transverse movement of the bath. Further, the rails 32 of Hitchcock limit the motion of the float bath to the transverse direction.

Hitchcock does not disclose or suggest a transport assembly comprising at least one rail, at least two supports, and at least one wheel or roller assembly, wherein the at least one rail is attached at each end to a support, and that least one wheel or roller assembly is attached to the at least one rail. Moreover, Hitchcock fails to teach or suggest that the sheet forming apparatus is adapted to move among a plurality of units receiving molten glass. Compare applicants' claims 36-37.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted U.S. Patent No. 1,564,240 (Hitchcock) fails to render obvious applicants claims 1, 8-9, and 28-32. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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